



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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February 15, 2011

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg, the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Shirley J. Piontkowski was sentenced by the Honorable Judge Laurie Smith Camp to probation for a term of 5 years following her conviction for embezzlement of public monies. She was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$20,215.08, and a special assessment of \$100.00.

Shirley J. Piontkowski worked as a licensed practical nurse at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska. She filed a claim for benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act, (FECA), as a result of injuries suffered in December of 2007. Commencing in May of 2008 Piontkowski began submitting falsified documentation to extend her time away from work and for the purpose of receiving continued benefit payments. Piontkowski made false statements and material misrepresentations on reports she furnished regarding medical appointments and doctor's notes. She also submitted reports containing fraudulent medical travel expenses. Piontkowski was interviewed and admitted to fraudulently receiving \$20,215.08 in workers compensation benefits that she was not entitled to receive.

Name of Defendant: Shirley J. Piontkowski

AKA: N/A

Age: 50

City of Residence: Phillips, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Embezzlement of Public Monies (10 years in prison, \$250,000 fine, 3 yr. term of Supervised Release, \$100 Special Assessment).

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Grand Island, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: N/A

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: \$20,215.08

Others Charged in Same Scheme: N/A

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: From on or about May 21, 2008, up to and including on or about January 2, 2009

Indictment Returned Date: July 20, 2010

Initial Appearance Date: October 7, 2010

Plea Date(s): November 19, 2010

Sentencing Date: February 14, 2011

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: F. A. Gossett

In Continuous Custody Since: N/A

Assigned District Court Judge: Laurie Smith Camp

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SLD